

ALTERNARIA LEAFSPOT OF SHASTA DAISY

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INTRODUCTION.--Alternaria chrysanthemi Simmons & Crosier was discovered on leaves of shasta daisy (*Chrysanthemum maximum* Ramond) in Gainesville, Florida, in March 1963. This fungus is thought to have entered the United States about 1953 on shasta daisy seed imported from the Netherlands. *A. chrysanthemi* has been reported on shasta daisy leaves in Austria, on leaves of *C. indicum* L. in India, and was recently isolated from shasta daisies introduced into Florida from California.

SYMPTOMATOLOGY.--Lesions first appear as light brown, water-soaked spots. These spots develop rapidly, becoming irregularly circular, brown to dark brown or black, indistinctly zonate, and may eventually measure up to 30 mm diam before affected leaves become entirely chlorotic and wither (Fig. 1).

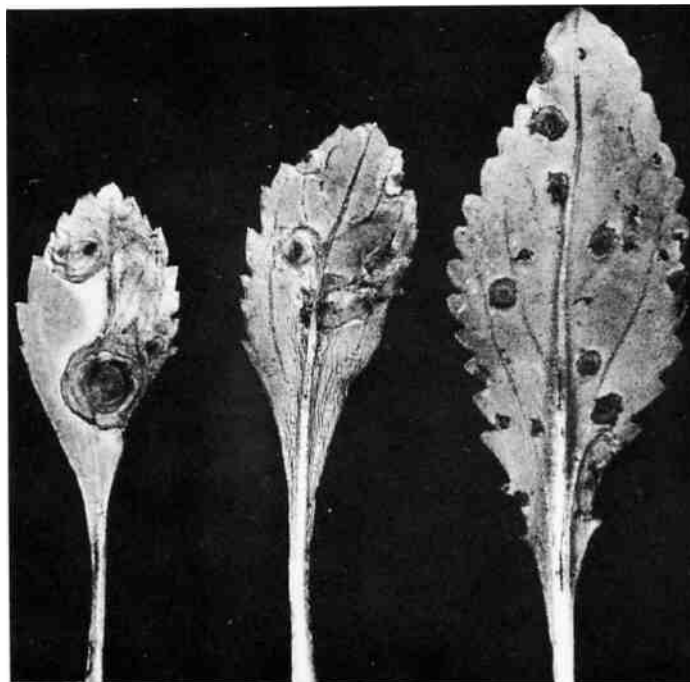


Fig. 1. Lesions on shasta daisy leaves caused by Alternaria chrysanthemi.

Lesions are also found on leaf petioles and stems. Petiole lesions are brown to reddish brown, water-soaked, elongate, and cause the leaf to bend at the site of infection almost as soon as the lesion is apparent. The affected leaf withers rapidly and rots off. Stem lesions are brown to reddish brown, and usually occur at points where petioles join the stem. This is apparently due to an accumulation of conidia in the leaf axes.

CONTROL.— Effective control may be obtained by applying Daconil or mancozeb. The fungicide should be applied as soon as symptoms are first observed, and continued until no new lesions develop.